

311th HSW earns Outstanding Unit Award

By Rudy Purificato
Discovery staff writer

In what is turning out to be an annual ritual, the Aeronautical Systems Center commander presented the 311th Human Systems Wing with its fourth consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award during an Oct. 29 ceremony at Hangar 9.

"This is the fourth year in a row that the 311th has been recognized. I've heard about three-peats, but I'm confident there'll be a five-peat here," said Lt. Gen. William Looney, ASC commander.

He attributed the Wing's consistent success to its planning processes involving human systems integration with technology. "I love the approach of this Wing for its concept of operation," said General Looney, explaining that the Wing defines human systems capabilities first, then matches that with specific platforms and technology.

He cited the Wing's contributions for ensuring that human performance and survival is enhanced "as a force multiplier," saying, "That's what you are all about."

The ASC commander also commended the 311th HSW for its continu-

ing support of America's global war on terrorism through contributions to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The 311th HSW earned the award for calendar year 2003 on the strength of its achievements involving force health protection, aeromedical/expeditionary training and human systems acquisition and integration. These contributions led to a fundamental transformation in how the Department of Defense delivers base mission support.

Among the Wing's award-winning initiatives was its contributions to rapid acquisition and accelerated training for new chemical-biological defense that greatly enhanced Air Force Central Command capabilities, helping improve the Air Force environmental compliance program that saved millions of dollars, and its historic implementation of City-Base as a DoD alternative for providing base mission support.

Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th HSW commander, said winning this honor for the second time on his watch is among his most memorable Air Force experiences. "This is gratifying to see another streamer attached to our flag," he said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Lt. Gen. William Looney (left), Aeronautical Systems Center commander, presents the Outstanding Unit Award to Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander as Senior Master Sgt. Michael Walljasper looks on. It is the fourth consecutive year the wing has earned the award.

Leaders unveil updated utility uniform colors, pattern

WASHINGTON — Responding to Airmen's feedback, Air Force leaders unveiled an alternative utility uniform color scheme and pattern Nov. 2 as part of the ongoing wear-test that was announced in August 2003.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John

Jumper and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray are now wearing the latest test version of the utility uniform during visits to Airmen serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The most striking change in this version is the switch from a deep blue, gray and green color scheme to a more subdued mix of tan, blue and two shades of green. And the tiger-stripe pattern is now pixilated.

This test version includes design changes incorporated in September based on feedback from Airmen.

More than 700 people at 32 installations are wear-testing the first test uniform. These Airmen partici-

pated in scientific surveys and focus groups. Their feedback was instrumental in making these most recent adjustments. The original plan called for only 300 testers, but uniform board officials decided to increase the number of testers to get more exposure and collect more test data. A select group will test the newest version.

Data showed that a service-unique appearance was very important to Airmen.

"Ninety-one percent of the Airmen responded in favor of a distinctive Air Force utility uniform," Chief Murray said. "Airmen take great pride in serving in America's Air Force. Having a distinct uniform that presents a professional appearance to the public and our sister services, when we are at home station or deployed, is important."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski

The Air Force utility uniform's revised colors include tan, blue and two shades of green in a pixilated tiger-stripe pattern.

Brooks employee wins DoD award

By Peter Villareal
Air Force Outreach Program Office

At its annual small business conference, the Department of Defense honored a Brooks City-Base employee with the Small Business Award.

Carol Singleton, a contracting officer with the 311th Human Systems Wing, earned the DoD Small Business Award in the Contracting Professional category for her performance in support of a large military housing construction program.

According to the Department of Defense small business office, the awardees were selected from among all of the services and other DoD agencies and represent the most outstanding examples of achievement within the Department.

The award was particularly significant for women entrepreneurs since three of the six small businesses awarded contracts were



Carol Singleton

women owned firms working in the non-traditional field of construction.

Under the military housing construction program that earned her the award, Singleton's research and management for several months resulted in her finding six qualified small businesses to do construction work on behalf of the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.

An intense level of work and energy was necessary for the contract because of the scope and complexity of the work to be performed. Although often used for local construction projects, small companies typically lack the means to accomplish projects on such a national scale as the

Contracting officer/8

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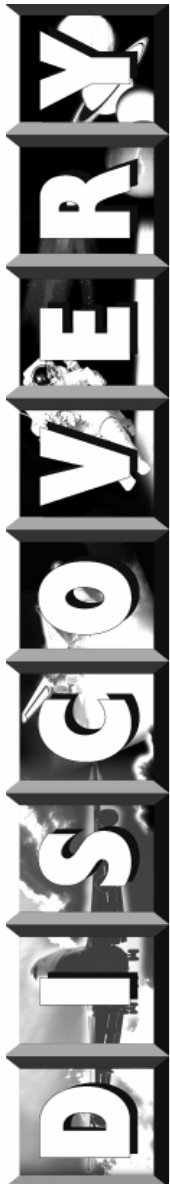
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PROJECT CHEER Italian Food Festival 'Cook Off'

Nov. 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Free food, activities and prizes



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Remembering our Veterans

By Col. William Chambers

11th Wing Commander, Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns fell silent on Europe's muddy battlefields. World War I was over. President Woodrow Wilson ordered Armistice Day be commemorated in succeeding years as a reminder of the "war to end all wars."

In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower renamed the holiday to honor American veterans of all wars. The list has lengthened since 1918: World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and, now, the Global War on Terrorism.

While the name of the day was changed, the purpose remained the same: to honor American veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. We owe so much to our veterans, men and women who have been separated from their families, missed the births of their children and spent holidays away from home.

Moreover, it's a debt we can never fully repay. America's veterans, current and past defenders, have helped shape the very character of America. Their stories are our country's history, because America rose to greatness on their shoulders. We owe our way of life, our freedom to work and raise our families as we choose, to them.

There are more than 26 million veterans among us. We know them as our fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and our next-door neighbors. They represent the finest America has to offer through their lifetime of service, and the country has been enriched by their contributions, both in and out of uniform. As President George W. Bush noted on Veterans Day last year, "The term 'veteran' conveys more than a rank held in the past ... each of us is better because of the influence of a veteran. And so is America."

Today, we are engaged in a war unlike any our country has ever known, against an enemy unlike any we've ever known. Like the defenders before us, we've been called to meet a great challenge. And, thanks to our leadership, our training, our equipment and our commitment, we're ready.

While the battleground and enemy may be different, our cause is clearly the same: to protect our republic, to preserve our fellow citizens' freedoms and to help secure a peaceful future for our families. It is up to us to serve now like those who have gone before us -- to fight for the values of liberty and justice they defended for us.

So, on this Veterans Day, the 50th year our nation has marked a day for veterans in November, let us remember the true significance of the day as we honor the millions of defenders on whose shoulders we stand and serve proudly.

FROM THE COMMANDER'S LOG:

Let me begin by saying once again that I am inspired by the hard work and dedication you demonstrate every day as you prove to me that the whole Air Force rides on the backs of the men and women of Air Force Materiel Command, and I am proud to be your commander.

Upon taking command in August 2003, I announced my initial focus areas and followed up in December 2003 with additional areas for 2004.

As part of the work we did regarding my initial focus areas, we developed an important set of goals to focus and guide our day-to-day work. Those major goals are listed below and our strategic planning effort is now about the business of institutionalizing our processes so that what we say is important is what we are working on, and what we are working on is what we are measuring, and results of what we are measuring can be clearly related to our mission and to the way we allocate our resources to ensure mission accomplishment — delivering war-winning expeditionary capabilities to the warfighter.

AFMC GOALS — Develop and transition technology to maintain air, space, and information dominance; develop, field and sustain war-winning expeditionary capabilities

on time, on cost; provide opportunities for career development and progression; operate quality installations; and sustain a healthy, fit and ready workforce.

In the next several Commander's Logs, I will take each one of the above AFMC Goals and describe it in greater detail so that you may know my thoughts about why they are important and how we will develop, and adjust when necessary, the right measurements and standards to ensure that we are actually pursuing the intent of these goals in our day-to-day efforts.

In the past, I have found the most successful organizations to be those that knew where they were going, why they were going that way, how they were going to get there, and then measured their progress in a way that allowed them to understand when they were or were not meeting their objectives.

I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year to make AFMC better in every area. You are making a difference every day for our entire Air Force, and I am proud of your desire to be a valued member of the world's most respected Air and Space Force. Thank you for all you do in support of AFMC and our Air Force.

— Gen. Greg Martin, AFMC Commander



Numerous members of the Brooks City-Base community attended a memorial service for Airman 1st Class Lauren Snodgrass. The service was held Oct. 27 at the Base Chapel.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY

Dear friends at Brooks City-Base:

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all of Lauren's friends, co-workers and superiors at Brooks City-Base. She often spoke fondly of you and loved working with you. Your hospitality and support has helped us through this difficult time in making arrangements for Lauren. May the Lord bless you.

— Neil and Jenny Snodgrass and family



Vice commander recognizes five Brooks employees for teamwork

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

They didn't make change because bus fare was not required. Yet the requirement to help others resulted in them receiving special coins for their good deeds as well as the appreciation of countless people they supported.

Five members of the 311th Mission Support Group's Logistics Division were honored Oct. 29 by Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th HSW vice commander, who presented them with her newly minted commander's coins during a surprise ceremony at Bldg. 912.

The quintet were feted because they prevented an interruption in shuttle service for Brooks Airmen by volunteering to drive buses to meet Air Force personnel needs.

"These folks stood up and did something special during a critical period for our pipeline students. It was a total team effort that was vitally important," said Colonel Alvarado. She described the honorees as "having gone above and beyond the call of duty" by volunteering to drive shuttles on a weekend.

The honorees include Robert Montenegro, transportation branch chief; Master Sgts. Ronald Pena and Michael

Hackley, supply superintendent and mobility NCOIC, respectively; and vehicle operations Staff Sgts. Arnold Aschenbeck and Amrit Dwarka.

"This was a very good, positive initiative," said Joe Garcia, 311th Logistics Division director, referring to his colleagues' commitment to maintaining shuttle service here during a five-day gap between contracts that occurred near the end of the fiscal year.

During this period, Mr. Montenegro and his team logged many miles driving buses from Sidney's to Lackland Air Force Base and other San Antonio locales. Most of their passengers were Airmen students assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

"We used resources within our division to make sure there was no break in service," said Mr. Montenegro, who credited Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th HSW commander, for asking Services and Logistics to come up with an alternative plan to provide shuttle service.

"USAFSAM students were stuck here with limited shopping options," said Mr. Montenegro, adding that his team shuttled them to Lackland AFB where they visited clothing sales, the Base Exchange, commissary and

the movie theater. Besides traveling there, shuttle volunteers also picked up Airmen from various off-base lodging and brought them to either Brooks or Randolph AFB for training.

"We put in 12 hour days from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.," Mr. Montenegro said. Sergeants Pena and Hackley also worked on a Saturday.

"The big thing for these guys was they had to acquaint themselves with the (various) bus routes," Mr. Garcia said.

The experience validated what Mr. Montenegro believed was supportable in his contingency plan. "I learned we can do it without contractors on an emergency basis," he said.

"They made a difficult situation a lot smoother. It could have been disastrous without the manpower. USAFSAM has a strict schedule for their pipeline students. If they don't meet that schedule, their students would have had to make up training after duty hours and on weekends," Mr. Garcia said.

The stopgap initiative paid off in another way. Mr. Montenegro credits Kim Walton, with the 311th HSW Contracting Office, for re-negotiating a new shuttle service contract that has saved the Air Force more than \$70,000.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Laura Alvarado, vice commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, recognizes Robert Montenegro, the transportation branch chief of the 311th Mission Support Group, with a coin. Mr. Montenegro and his team of five drivers worked long hours to maintain operation of the shuttle bus service running from Brooks City-Base.

PROJECT CHEER

Italian Food Festival

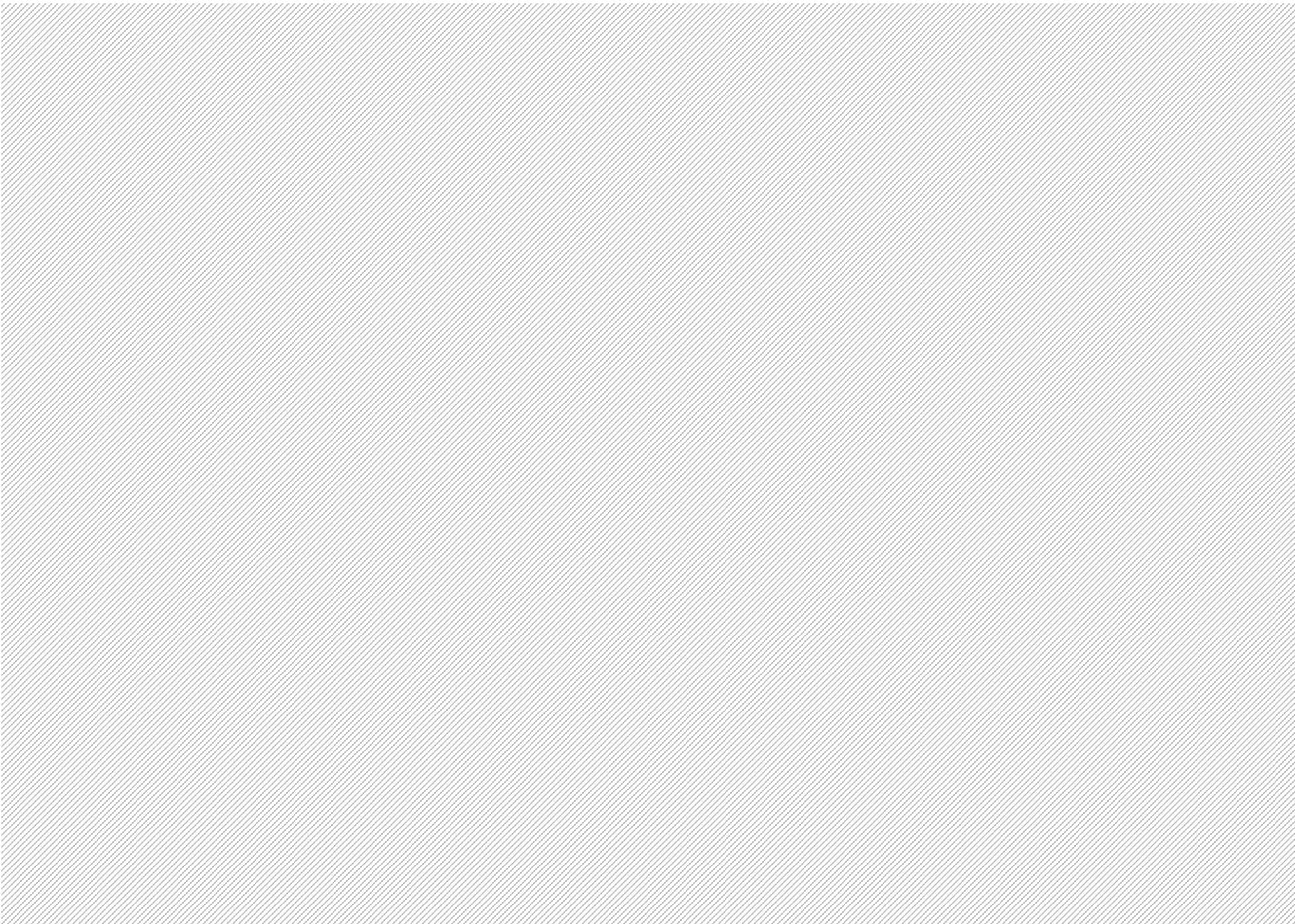
'Cook Off'

NOVEMBER 10

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Student Activity Center (Bldg 722)

Free food, activities and door prizes





Lackland gears up for Airfest 2004

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The “Gateway to the Air Force” is revving up for its second-ever Airfest, which takes to the skies over San Antonio Nov. 6 and 7. The event is free and open to the public.

The Aeroshell T-6 Aerobatic Team and “Tora, Tora, Tora” will be the main headliners of the two-day event that will feature numerous other aerial antics, aircraft displays and more. An Air Force F-16 aircraft and a Navy F-18 aircraft will also be performing.

The Aeroshell Team is a formation aerobatic team flying the World War II North American Advanced Trainer.

The pilots who make up the Aeroshell Aerobatic Team take the aircraft through a series of precision formation aerobatic maneuvers.

The team combines the skill, competence and flair of these pilots with the roar and billowing smoke of the powerful 600 HP Pratt and Whitney engines.



Pilots perform a series of precision formation aerobatic maneuvers, including their bomb burst, vertical rejoin, avalanche, the breathtaking “Switch Blade” along with graceful loops and rolls.

The Airfest will also feature “Tora, Tora, Tora,” a re-enactment of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Japanese aircraft will fill the sky and explosions and fire light up the runway. In addition, there will be aerial demonstrations by the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Wings of Blue jump team and the Navy’s SEAL leap frog jump team.

Among the many other performers will be the Trojan Phlyers T-28 team, Otto the

Helicopter and a number of vintage WARBIRDS WWII aircraft. The Air Force Reserve jet car will also be on hand.

The event will also feature almost 50 aircraft static displays, allowing visitors an up close look at many of today’s U.S. military airpower.

Gates will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the performances running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shuttle buses start running at 8 a.m. to parking areas prior to gate openings.

With security being Lackland’s number one priority during the Airfest, visitors will be prohibited from bringing concealed weapons, ice chests, backpacks, large bags, alcohol, skates, skateboards, rollerblades and pets, with the exception of certified medical aid dogs, into the Airfest grounds. Anyone carrying these items will be asked to return them to their vehicle.

For more information on the Lackland Airfest, visit www.lackland.af.mil/ airshow or call 671-7469.



BASE CHAPEL
536-3824

Weekdays:
Mon. - Wed. — Eucharist
11:30 a.m. — Thursday Mass

Wednesdays:
5:30 p.m. — Protestant choir rehearsal
6:30 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Sundays:
9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Interdenominational worship, includes children’s church
9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School
10:30 a.m. — Catholic Religious Education



For Armed Services YMCA, November all about family

WASHINGTON — Military Family Week began about two decades ago as part of The Great American Family project.

Then in 1996, the Armed Services YMCA expanded the week, which occurred around Thanksgiving, into Military Family Month, which began Nov. 1.

Just as the week grew into a month-long celebration, military families have been growing in number and percentage of force, said retired Navy Rear Adm. Frank Gallo, director of the Armed Services YMCA.

“When I came in the service back in the Dark Ages, most of the troops were single. Everybody was single,” he said. Now, he added, 65 to 70 percent of servicemembers are married, many with children.

This makes the family a big part of the military, and the health

of those families is a big part of the readiness of the military, he said.

The organization, part of the national YMCA, is dedicated to supporting ongoing outreach activities for these families. Unlike the national organization, the Armed Services YMCA, with the exception of the branch at Naval Station Bremerton, Wash., does not have physical fitness facilities. Instead, it provides child care, counseling, singles centers, airport welcome centers and hospital programs, Admiral Gallo said.

As long as it is legal, moral and needed, “there’s very little we will not try,” he said.

The organization also tries to help ease the financial burden of the families of guardsman and reservists, whose pay often drops when called to active duty.

Some companies will make up the difference between a guardsman’s or reservist’s pay, but many others do not.

“They find themselves strapped,” Admiral Gallo said. “So we put [a lot] of extra effort into them.”

Extra effort also goes into helping junior enlisted servicemembers in the active forces, he said.

Currently, Woman’s Day magazine has published two of three planned issues that each feature one family as a representative for all military families. The goal is finding support for families like these during the holidays, when it really gets tough and expenses are high, Admiral Gallo said.

The month puts a little extra focus on supporting families. This has been especially true since the

beginning of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Admiral Gallo said.

Part of what the organization does to help bases get ready to celebrate the month comes in a package that they prepare and the individual services mail to bases. The package includes a letter from the president, and a letter from the senior enlisted adviser of the particular service. There are also posters to help advertise the month.

The posters are the product of an art contest directly tied to Military Family Month. The annual contest kicks off Nov. 1, and ends Feb. 14. Military children in grades kindergarten through sixth from each service, including the Coast Guard, are eligible.

The posters’ annual theme is “My Military Family.” A winner from each service receives a

\$500 savings bond; second-place finishers get \$100 bonds. The winners’ artwork is featured on the month’s poster.

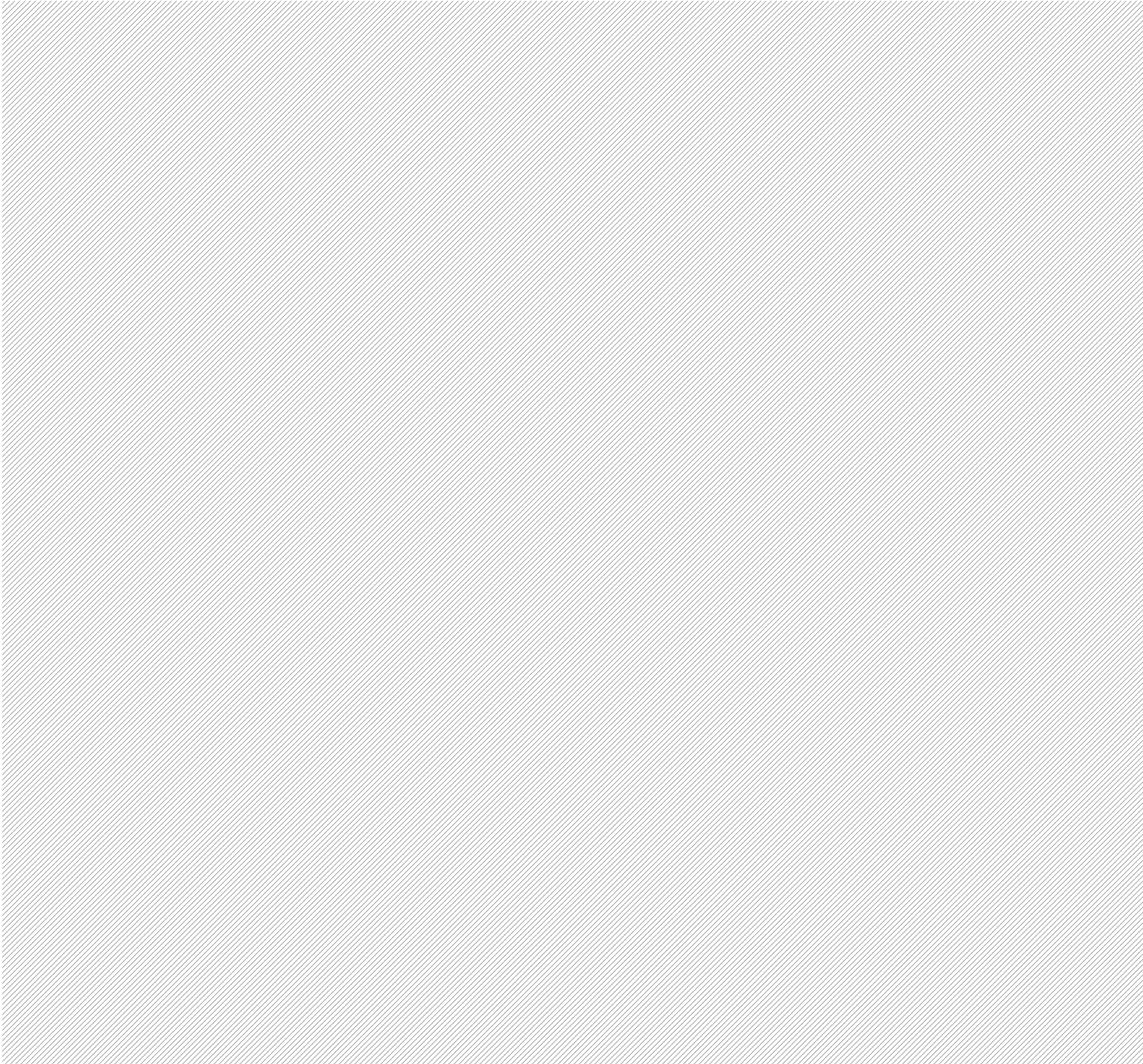
One way organization officials help single servicemembers is to arrange for them to have Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner with a local family. They always end up having a good time, Admiral Gallo said. Sometimes there are more families offering to serve dinner than there are servicemembers in need of that dinner.

Admiral Gallo said the war on terror has brought out the good in a lot of people.

“American people are generous to a fault. That’s a really good part of what’s come out of this war,” he said.

MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION

Italian Food Festival
November 10





Project Mercury astronaut’s ‘space vision’ subject of Brooks exams

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

He claimed to have seen some extraordinary things from space, yet was not concerned about the effects of his historic Project Mercury flight on his eyesight. Nevertheless, the late Air Force Col. L. Gordon Cooper, who passed away Oct. 4, made three visits to Brooks to have his eyes examined.

The exams, conducted by U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine’s scientist-ophthalmologist Dr. Thomas Tredici, validated earlier scientific findings that short-duration space flight had negligible effects on astronaut vision.

“Scientists were concerned about cosmic rays causing cataracts. Everyone was worried about ultraviolet radiation in space. The concern (then) was once you got into space, your vision would change,” said Dr.

Tredici, referring to the early years of America’s space program.

Colonel Cooper was one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts. His first NASA mission aboard Faith 7 was “to determine the effects of extended space flight on man.” His May 15, 1963 flight lasted 22 orbits. Two years later, he returned to space with crew member Charles “Pete” Conrad Jr. for a then record-breaking 121 orbits aboard Gemini V.

“Gordy Cooper came here after he had left the NASA program. I examined him because he wanted a private pilot’s license,” said Dr. Tredici, referring to three separate eye exam visits in Bldg. 100 in 1972, 1975 and 1977.

“He had no concerns with his vision when I saw him,” Dr. Tredici said. “At the time, I was interested in the vision aspects (involving space travel). His visual acuity was excellent. It was

20/15 when I examined him on Aug. 25, 1972.”

During his last visit to Brooks in July 1977 at age 50, Col. Cooper’s vision had degraded slightly to 20/18.

Wanting to know about Col. Cooper’s unusual visual experiences during the Mercury flight, Dr. Tredici interviewed him.

“I had a private and fantastic opportunity to talk to him one-on-one. He had claimed to have seen certain things from space, such as a jeep traveling on a dusty road in the desert near El Centro, Calif.,” Dr. Tredici said, referring to images viewed from the Mercury Atlas IX.

Among other things that Colonel Cooper saw from space were aircraft, vehicular traffic and smoke emanating from buildings in the Asian mountain nation of Tibet, and a train track in China.

“These were all vertical sightings when the spacecraft was directly above, and actually

under those conditions there was a minimum amount of atmosphere through which he was looking,” Dr. Tredici said.

Colonel Cooper was the first astronaut who claimed to have seen manmade phenomena on Earth from space. He was later involved in visual acuity experiments during his Gemini V flight and later during the Gemini VII mission in 1965.

“In the 1960s, we (USAFSAM) were NASA’s clinical and research arm. We examined all astronaut candidates who were sent to Houston for astronaut selection,” Dr. Tredici said.

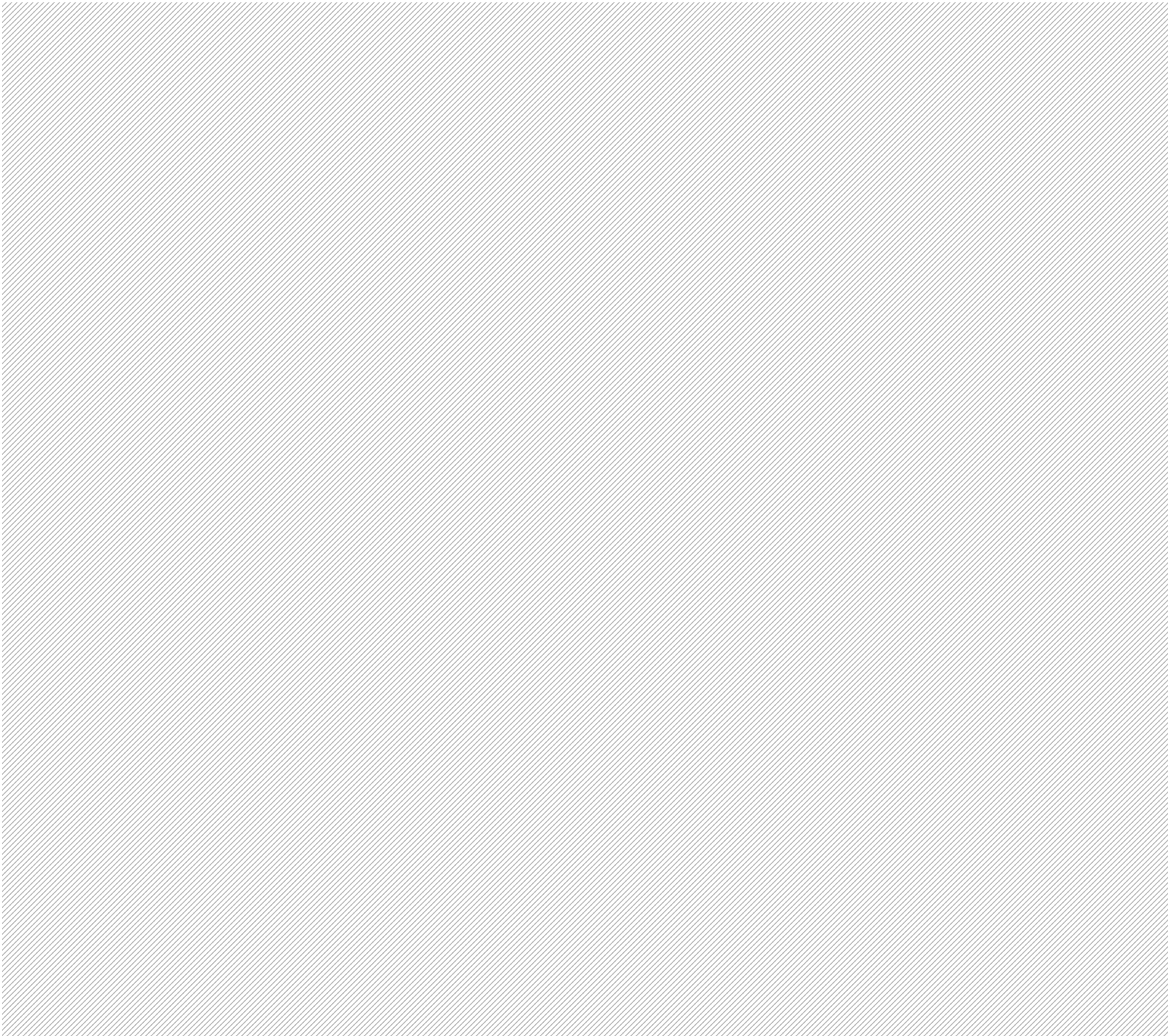
“When I got here in 1964, we were conducting visual exams on Air Force space pilots and test pilots from Edwards AFB. We did not examine the original seven Mercury astronauts. The original exams were conducted at the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, N.M.”



Col. L. Gordon Cooper

Dr. Randolph Lovelace, a surgeon, conducted the Mercury 7 exams as NASA’s medical officer.

Eventually, Dr. Tredici later examined the Mercury astronauts, separately, after they had retired from the space program. Tucked away in his archives are copies of the Mercury 7 astronaut post-flight eye exams that have since become part of space history.





BRIGGEN.TOMTRAVIS
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

ACTION LINE

536-2222

The **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE** is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play. If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**. Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
311th Mission Support Group –		Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Safety.....	536-2111	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	BXMarket.....	533-9079
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366

Healthcare open season offers 18 new plans

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Office of Personnel Management officials announced new healthcare options that may provide better financial opportunities for employees.

Eighteen new high-deductible health plans will be offered by the federal employees' health benefits program for 2005.

The new health plans, when used with a health savings account or a health reimbursement arrangement, may provide tax-advantaged savings for future medical expenses, said Maria Molly, chief of benefits and entitlements at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Information on the new health plans is online at www.opm.gov/hsa/intro.asp, and provides basic information about the plans, accounts and arrangements, as well as a chart comparing their features.

Employees will have the opportunity to review and update plans during the program's open season Nov. 8 to Dec. 13.

"Open season is the best time for people to review their health-care coverage — not only to make desired changes, but to ensure their plan hasn't been altered or discontinued," said Janet Thomas of the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team at AFPC.

All Air Force-serviced civilian employees must make their open season changes by one of two methods:

— The personnel center's Employee Benefits Information System Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm. Employees with family coverage or other insurance can use the site to make their elections and avoid having to transfer to a counselor to complete their transaction. Another advantage of making the election via the Web is employees can print a copy of Standard Form

2809, health benefits election form, as soon as they complete their election.

— The BEST automated phone system at 1-800-616-3775 for employees in the United States (press 2 for civilian, then 2 for benefits and entitlements, and follow the prompts). Overseas employees will dial the direct access number for the country they are in, and then dial 1-800-997-2378. Benefits counselors are available weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information on the programs, visit the BEST health insurance site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/fehb.htm. Links to guides and individual plan brochures will be placed on the Web site as they become available.

During this open season, eligible employees may also enroll in the flexible spending account program for 2005. There are two types of accounts: the health-care flexible spending account and the dependent-care flexible spending account. Enrollment is conducted directly via a third party program administrator online at www.fsafeds.com/fsafeds or by calling toll-free, 1-877-372-3337.

Employees eligible to enroll in the health program, even if not currently enrolled, are eligible to participate in the spending program. Employees who enroll in one of the new high-deductible health plans, and are eligible for a health savings account, may not have a health-care spending account.

All employees with qualified family members may enroll in a dependent-care spending account, except temporary employees with no fixed work scheduled whose tour of duty is six months or less.

Additional information regarding the spending account program is available online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/fsa.htm.

November marks American Indian Heritage month

In 1976, a Senate resolution authorized the president of the United States to declare a week as Native American Awareness Week. The celebration was expanded to a month in 1990.

The Brooks community will celebrate American Indian Heritage month throughout November. Below are just a few of the scheduled activities:

— Opening Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston - Nov. 4 at 11:30 a.m. The event included

cultural education, entertainment and food sampling.

— Storyteller at Sidney's - Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. The event will feature a performance by local storyteller Emma Ortega. Following lunch, there will be a prize drawing

— Educational Fun Run at the gym. Date and time are yet to be determined.

— Weekly book readings at the child development center, as well as displays located at Sidney's, gym and library.



A LOOK at BROOKS

If elected
U.S. president,
what would
be your first
official act?



MSgt. Kevin McGee
311th MDS

I would call a down day
for all military worldwide.



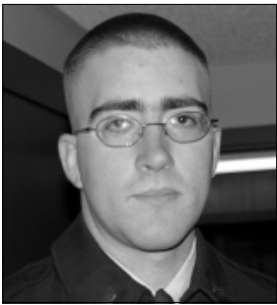
Sr.A Sean Weins
68th IOS

I would initiate a draft and
quadruple the military
force in Iraq in an effort to
end the conflict in one
year.



Airman Lacey Laufer
311th MDS

I would attempt to elimi-
nate the electoral college.
The winner in presiden-
tial elections would be the
recipient of the majority of
votes.



Sr.A Rob Zupko
AFIOH

My first act as president
would be to review the
Patriot Act.



1st Lt. Jen Smith
AFRL

I would give all military
personnel a raise.

Brooks contractor officer earns national recognition

Continued from page 1

scope of this contract. After the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence approached her to ask that portions of the program be set aside for small businesses, Singleton took it as a personal challenge to find small businesses to do much of the work.

According to the award citation, Ms. Singleton helped in securing adequate bonding and created a “post-award contract school” to assist the small business construction companies.

For months before award of the contract, however, Ms. Singleton worked to find qualified firms to compete for the project. She hosted several industry conferences and meeting where companies could learn more about the project, re-

quirements for federal contracting, and information about special Air Force initiatives that could help them.

“Had we not gone out early to do the research to find qualified firms, we could not have done it,” Ms. Singleton said. “We held one conference with more than 300 attendees, and we provided them with information about mentor-protégé agreements and the benefits of joint venturing.”

Information about the Small Business Admin-istration’s Mentor Protégé program proved to be invaluable to several of the winning firms, which



Photo by Peter Villareal

Carol Singleton (left) won the Department of Defense Small Business Award. Also in attendance (from left to right) were Frank Ramos, the director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Col. Laura Alvarado, vice commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing and Mary Urey, diirector of Small Business at the 311th HSW.

were ultimately participants in the program and benefited from subcontracts their Mentor companies provided to them un-

der full and open portions of the contract awards.

Contract awards for the construction work totaled \$2.5 billion and were for the construction of military family housing, commercial, and institutional construction projects at several Air Force installations. By encouraging and facilitating the joint venturing and teaming of several small businesses, Ms. Singleton spearheaded the use of small businesses in what was almost exclusively the domain of large businesses.

Ms. Singleton gives most of the credit to what she describes as her team. “This contract was able to go to a small business because of the team effort made by the customer, which in this case, was the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, my contracting office, the Brooks City-Base small business office, my command, and the construction firms that put in the extraordinary amount of time to make this contract happen.”



New civilian personnel system brings sweeping changes

By Matthew Weir
1st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The new human resource system known as the National Security Personnel System is scheduled to start for an initial 100,000 Department of Defense employees in the summer of 2005, Roger Blanchard said here Oct 25. He is the Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Air Force personnel specialists are traveling base to base to explain and answer questions about the system, which is currently under development and will eventually manage all 650,000 employees, he said.

The base visits on NSPS are playing a key role in explaining the most significant changes to the civil service system since the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. Officials are developing the new system after deciding the current system is inadequate at managing DOD civilians in today's national security environment, Mr. Blanchard said.

Inadequacies include a slow hiring process that is adversely affecting recruiting; outstanding performers being paid the same as poor performers; limited flexibility to hire, reassign and reward employees; and limited

accountability of poor performers or managers.

Significant changes from the current system to the NSPS include compensating employees and supervisors based on performance and contribution to the mission, and creating a work force that can be easily sized, shaped and deployed to meet changing mission requirements.

NSPS is one element of the secretary of defense's overall transformation initiative to improve the way the department fights and manages in today's national security environment.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

SPONSOR TRAINING

Nov. 9 – 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with Air Force Instructions, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR

Nov. 16-18 – 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve those separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation resume writing, interviewing skills to include appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. One should attend at least 180 days prior to retirement/separation.

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

Nov. 16 – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

For a great morale booster, stop by the FSC for a free lunch. Meet other single parents for open discussions or outings. The Chapel, Life Skills Support Center and the Family Support Center are sponsoring this class. Contact LaWanda Roper at 536-2444 or Sandra Cervantes at 536-5301 for more information.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Dec. 1 – 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are pre-separation, Veterans benefits, survivors benefit plans, TRICARE, and financial planning for transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

SMOOTH MOVE

Dec. 7 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

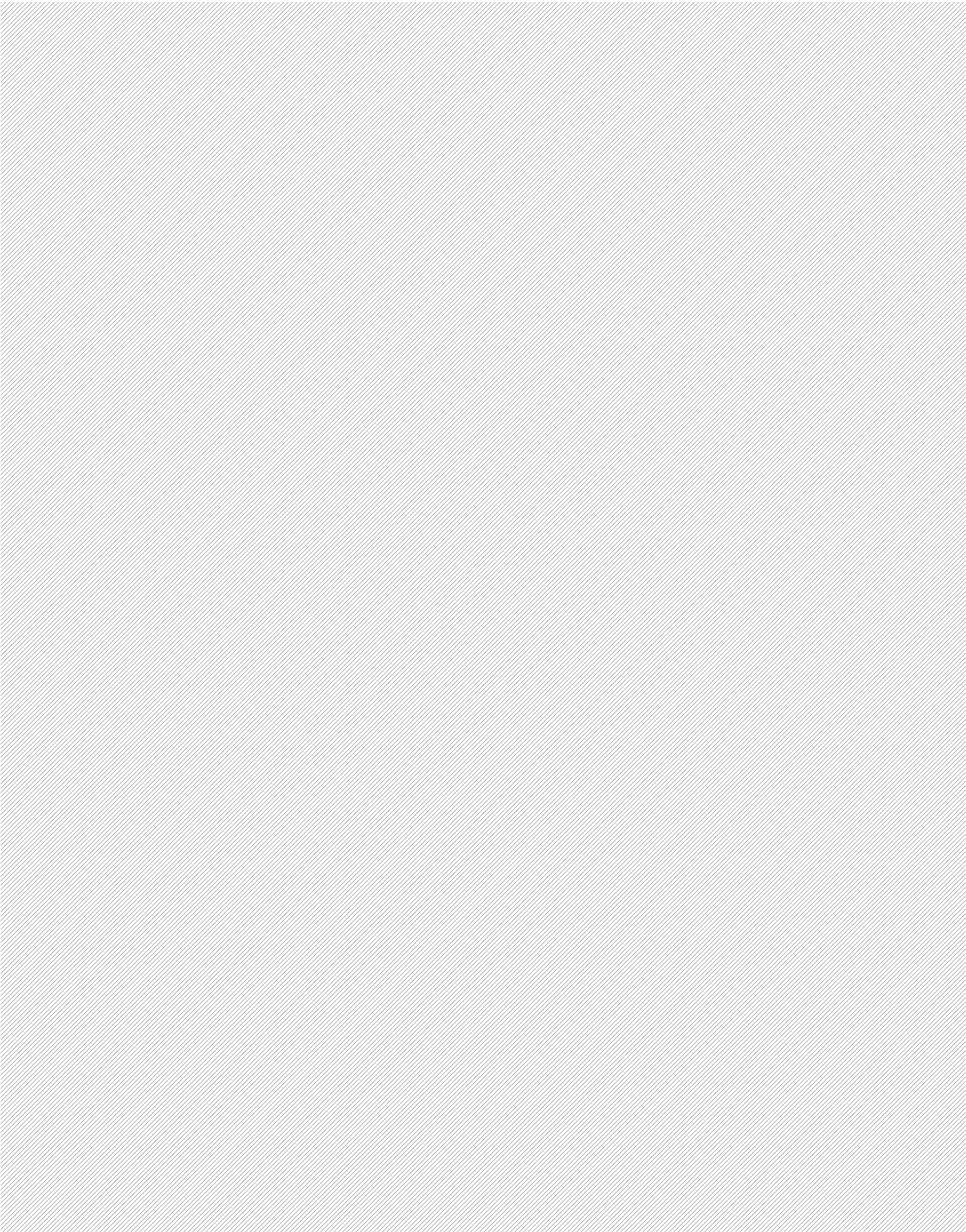
PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, and spouses. Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

To register for class,
Call 536-2444





Quarterly Award Winners

Photos by Airman 1st Class Samantha Shieh



Master Sgt. Vincent Iapichino
AF Institute for Operational Health
Senior NCO of the Quarter



Capt. Donald R. Chatman
311th Human Systems Wing
CGO of the Quarter



Senior Airman Grayson Gokee
68th Information Operation Squadron
Airman of the Quarter



Tech. Sgt Joanna Tavera
AF Institute for Operational Health
NCO of the Quarter

Military awards for the third quarter were presented by Col. Laura Alvarado, vice commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, at an Oct. 22 ceremony at the Brooks Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parade will honor veterans

The U.S. Military Veterans Parade Association invites all to participate in the 5th Annual San Antonio Veteran's Parade Nov. 6. USMVPA is a non-profit organization comprised of veterans and local community volunteers who work year round to honor all veterans and active duty members with an annual parade. The parade begins at 1 p.m. and starts at Avenue E and 3rd street with seating in front of the Alamo. The theme for the parade is "Military Veterans and Community United."

Sergeant's Association meetings

Air Force Sergeants Association (Chapter 1077) meets the second Tuesday of every month at Sidney's Grill at 3 p.m.

CFC BBQ and dodgeball tournament

To raise awareness of the Combined Federal Campaign, which ends Nov. 17, there will be a BBQ and dodgeball tournament today. The dodgeball tournament will take place all day. During the tournament intermission, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a BBQ catered by Snoda's. Tickets for the BBQ are \$6. The event takes place at the front porch of Bldg. 578.



Combined Federal Campaign



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

Cynthia Fleming, financial management technician with the 311th Human Systems Wing, knows that her life is "a blessing," from her job in civil service through the tragedy of September 11 to her family's health challenges.

A military daughter, Ms. Fleming was born in Nierenberg, Germany, and spent her early life alternating between Oklahoma and Germany. After her father retired, they moved to a small town about a half hour from Dallas and she graduated from Greenville High School not only with a diploma, but with her true love as a classmate, and their two children. It wasn't easy. "I would have liked to go to college," she said, "but I went to work instead."

They married and her husband joined the Air Force. Their first duty station was at Mather Air Force Base, Calif., then they went to Warner Robins AFB, Ga., the Azores, followed by tours at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, Bolling AFB, D.C., and finally to Brooks. It was in the Azores that she entered civil service.

"I'd been working minimum wage jobs," she said, "like Taco Bell and Burger King. But while we were at Warner Robins I started in with NAF. When we got to the Azores, I found out that being NAF qualified me to enter civil service, so I began as a GS-3 in the housing office. I finally had a chance at a career."

At Goodfellow AFB, she transferred to the 17th Supply Squadron as a secretary. It was "exciting" work, with "so many things to do." When her husband was reassigned to Bolling AFB, she found herself in the financial management field in the Pentagon. Although she could have done "without all the traffic," she loved her job. Then came 9/11. She was in the building when the terrorists flew one of the three hijacked planes into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"It's something I'll never forget," she said. "We'd been listening to the news about the World Trade Center all morning, and my husband had called a couple of times to tell me what was

going on. I worked in the inner ring, but I was about to go to the outer ring to help someone do something when my husband called again. I stopped and talked to him just as the plane hit the building. If he hadn't called, I'd have been right at the spot."

As a matter of fact, from where she was standing, she and her co-workers could see the plane coming in. It was "scary." The Pentagon was immediately evacuated. All nonessential workers were sent home, but because of the damage, she and her fellow office workers couldn't get to the parking lot. So they walked for about a mile, got a ride from a friend, and spent the rest of the day at the nearest worker's home. She didn't get back to her home until nearly 9 p.m.

"We all got through it thanks to faith and prayer," she said. "But there were some of us who had difficulty coping. One girl I knew never did return to the office. It was all just too much for her."

Then came the clean-up. Most Pentagon workers were off for two days, then returned on Friday. "It was still a mess," she said. "There was dust all over the desks, tables and floors and the whole building just smelled awful. For weeks afterward, security alarms kept going off, sometimes two-to-three times a day. It was just a terrible time."

In July 2003, the Flemings arrived at Brooks and they've been here ever since.

There have been two constants during her life. One is softball and the other is her religious faith. Both bring her peace.

"I love playing softball," she said. "It's relaxing. I play for the joy of playing." It doesn't hurt that when she plays on co-ed teams, she's acknowledged to be a better player than most of the men.

Ms. Fleming began playing in high school and played in downtown leagues, as well. Every base they've been assigned, she's played on the base team. At Bolling, her team placed third in the Worldwide Armed Forces Tournament. A .500 hitter, Ms. Fleming describes herself as an "all-around player." Lately, her relationship with ball playing has changed somewhat. She's coaching her

six year-old son's basketball team. "I get a real kick out of watching them play," she said.

The other constant in her life, her religion, has enabled her to realize that she's part of God's plan. A member of the Resurrection Baptist Church in Schertz, Texas, she attends Sunday School classes with her children. "I sit back and learn with them," she said. "It's a very good church with very, very good people."

Her belief in God's plan was never more evident than when she and her husband received orders to go to Washington, D.C. "We fought and fought to get out of that assignment," she said. "We were really content at Goodfellow. Our two daughters were ready to graduate from high school and we wanted to stay."

But it wasn't to be. And now she knows why. Just before moving, their youngest daughter, a junior with enough credits to graduate with her older sister, began having some minor physical problems. Her eyesight sometimes became blurred. Her legs sometimes became numb. Sometimes they tingled.

The Flemings took her to the base hospital, but doctors there could find nothing wrong. When they moved to D.C., though, things got worse. Much worse. They thought she'd suffered a stroke. She was rushed to Walter Reed Army Hospital where specialists determined she had multiple sclerosis. She temporarily lost the use of her right side. It took months of physical rehabilitation to learn how to walk again.

"She fought the fight," Ms. Fleming said. "She's risen above it." And she's doing much better now, with only one minor attack in the last two years.

"It was a blessing in disguise," said Ms. Fleming. "I don't believe the people at Goodfellow had the expertise to help her. We had to go to Washington, D.C. where the experts were, even if we didn't want to go. The Lord brought us there. It was all the Lord's plan."

As a result of their daughter's illness, the Flemings support the MS Society as much as possible. Whenever there's a walk or run to raise funds, they're there.

At the job, Ms. Fleming really enjoys working with people through customer service. She'd like to someday become the financial services officer. Toward that end, she's enrolling in Palo Alto College in January to continue her education. With 12 years in civil service, she has plenty of time to work toward her goals. "I'm staying around for another 18 years," she said. "At least."



FLEMING



FULL NAME:
Cynthia Diann Fleming

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Financial Management Technician,
311th Human Systems Wing/FM

IN SIMPLE TERMS,
WHAT DO YOU DO?:
Provide the very best customer
service I possibly can each day to our
military troops, civilians and retirees.

BIRTHDAY:
Dec. 6, 1963

HOMETOWN:
Greenville Texas

FAMILY STATUS:
Married with three children,
two daughters, one son and
two precious grandsons

PERSONAL MOTTO:
Count your blessings rather than your
problems and always fight for your
dreams, and remember if the dream is
big enough, the problems really don't
matter and most of all have faith,
focus and follow through.

PET PEEVE:
When you ask someone a question
and they don't know the answer
because that's "not their job."

I JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE
BECAUSE:
My spouse was military and this
allowed me to transfer when we moved
from one base to another.

INSPIRATIONS:
My family

HOBBIES:
Spending time with my family,
playing softball, sports
and teaching aerobics.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
To be the financial services officer

MY GREATEST
ACCOMPLISHMENT:
Being blessed to raise three wonderful
children and having faith to know that
all things work together for the good!

MY MOST PRIZED
POSSESSION:
My family and knowing that the earthly
items I have will mean nothing to me
in heaven.



Brooks' study for NASA may help astronauts cope with latent viruses

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

A National Aeronautics and Space Administration-funded immunology study that began this week at Brooks may provide scientists with a better understanding of how to limit the re-activation of latent viruses in astronauts during long-duration missions.

Called the "Effects of Simulated Spaceflight on Virus-Specific Immunity," this ground-based study is the first of its kind for Brooks City-Base involving researchers from the Johnson Space Center in Houston, the Air Force Research Laboratory, NTI Incorporated and the Galveston, Texas-based Microgen.

"This study stems out of work conducted many years ago involving immunology in astronauts," said Dr. Raymond Stowe, a former NASA scientist who is the principal investigator from Microgen for the NASA-funded study at Brooks.

Dr. Stowe said this study, and other on-going related studies, support NASA's preliminary planning for long-duration lunar and Mars missions. NASA is concerned with health risks astronauts have experienced during previous missions primarily involving re-activation of latent herpes viruses.

Scientists believe there is a link between immuno-suppression and viral infections.

"We're finding viral reactivations in astronauts that are occurring in larger proportions than in the general population," said Dr. Stowe.

Between 40 and 50 percent of astronauts have experienced re-activation of latent herpes viruses such as the herpes simplex virus and Epstein-Barr virus, compared to about 10 percent in the general population.

Viral infections, specifically herpes viruses, have plagued astronauts since the Apollo missions to the moon. Some Apollo astronauts have suffered from shingles, a painful condition caused by the same varicella zoster virus that also triggers chickenpox. Space travelers during shuttle missions have had a wide variety of infections ranging from herpes cold sores and lip lesions to cytomegalovirus, a latent virus that also



Col. Breck Lebeque, Air Force Research Laboratory medical observer for the NASA study, explains procedures on centrifuge operations with study subject Kenneth Heintz.

causes mononucleosis.

There have been several astronauts who suffered viral infections following space travel. "There's some level of reactivation before and after flights," Dr. Stowe said, explaining that evidence from past studies suggests that these herpes virus reactivations may be

caused by stress hormones.

Dr. Stowe had previously studied neuroimmune function during short-term spaceflights and simulated microgravity. He has found elevated levels of the stress hormones cortisol, epinephrine and noradrenaline.

What's not completely understood, however, are the psychological and physiological conditions that may contribute to immune system suppression and the release of

stress hormones. Other factors may be in play, scientists believe, such as microgravity, hypergravity, sleep deprivation, separation from family and confinement.

"We'll be looking at reactivation of these viruses as biomarkers," said Dr. Stowe, referring to the Brooks-based study's investigation of possibly finding a direct mechanism that triggers virus reactivation. The study is part of a

series of investigations that NASA is funding to develop countermeasures for fighting infections and preventing tumor cell outgrowths. Part of NASA's biomedical research and countermeasures program, this study is being conducted here because of Brooks City-Base's unique resources.

The AFRL's centrifuge and Fatigue Countermeasures Lab are being used to simulate spaceflight in study subjects.

Dr. Bill Storm, a retired Brooks scientist who now works for NTI, Inc., helped facilitate the study collaboration with AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate, the Johnson Space Center Test Subject Facility, Microgen and NTI's Warfighter Fatigue Countermeasures.

"We'll have four groups of four subjects who will be exposed to 3Gs for

eight to nine minutes in the centrifuge," said Dr. Storm, one of the study's co-investigators. The first centrifuge phase of the study simulates physiological stresses associated with launch.

Dr. Stowe noted that the study's test subjects, supplied by NASA from the general population, include those who tested positive for latent viruses through pre-study serology analysis. The first group arrived Nov. 1 and are now confined to bed in the Fatigue Countermeasures Lab for 16 days.

"We selected 16 days because (spaceflight) missions (of that duration) characteristically produce higher degrees of stress hormones as well as muscle atrophy," Dr. Stowe said. Following prolonged bedrest that contributes to muscle deconditioning, the subjects will be exposed to centrifuge forces that simulate spacecraft reentry and produce physiological stresses associated with landing.

"This is a pilot study," said Dr. Stowe, explaining that it supports other NASA studies including a 10-year program, launched this year, involving the long-term effects of spaceflight on muscles.

More important to Brooks City-Base and the Air Force, this NASA study is the type of scientific collaboration that the Brooks Development Authority wants to encourage, said Rebecca Cardenas, a study co-investigator who is NTI's Director of Operations for Warfighter Fatigue Countermeasures.

"The Air Force benefits from this study, because bringing in new business (through the study) helps keep the lab going," said Maj. Brandon Doan, an AFRL researcher for Fatigue Countermeasures.

rudy.purificato@brooks.af.mil



Air Force Research Laboratory's Staff Sgt. Chris Ruth attached monitoring devices to Kenneth Heintz before his centrifuge ride.



Capt. James Kisner of the Air Force Research Laboratory takes a blood sample from study subject Kenneth Heintz. Heintz began his 16-day bedrest confinement in the Fatigue Countermeasures Lab Nov. 2.

Photos by Rudy Purificato



Defense Act increases pay, provides benefits to workers

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed the \$420.6 billion National Defense Authorization Act Oct. 28.

This makes up 19.9 percent of the total fiscal 2005 federal budget and 3.6 percent of the gross domestic product. Last year, the percentages were 20.2 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

The authorization act is the second of two bills that had to become law for the Defense Department to operate. The first is the Defense Appropriations Act, which the president signed into law Aug. 5. The appropriations act provides the money; the authorization act gives DOD the OK to spend it.

The act funds a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for servicemembers, and eliminates out-of-pocket expenses for housing by increasing the basic allowance for housing. It also makes permanent increases in hostile fire and imminent danger pay to \$225 per month, and in family separation pay to \$250 per month.

It also allows the base realignment and closure process to move forward. The House version of the

bill would have delayed the process for two years.

The act authorizes a number of programs for reserve-component servicemembers.

On the medical side, it provides for up to 90 days of Tricare coverage for reservists and their families who are mobilized. It also authorizes 180 days of transitional Tricare health benefits for reservists, active-duty members and their families after separation from active duty.

In addition, members of the selected reserve earn a year's eligibility for Tricare for each 90 days of service in a contingency.

The bill authorizes a new reserve-component educational assistance program tied to the Montgomery GI Bill.

On the family- and bachelor-housing front, the act eliminates a statutory ceiling on the privatization of housing. In the program, which allows DOD to leverage public money with private contractors, the services can build and renovate family and bachelor housing.



Things to do around Brooks

SERVICES DIVISION
by Jan McMahon

YOUTH PROGRAM CENTER
536-2515, Bldg. 470
Airmen's Cookie Drive

Show your support of our Airmen by providing baked goods for the Cookie Drive. In an effort to make the unaccompanied Airmen in the dormitories feel like an important part of the Brooks City-Base family, teens will deliver the "goodies" Nov. 17. Baked items that can be individually wrapped should be delivered to the Youth Center on Nov. 16 so they can be prepared for delivery. Pick up a form in advance, fill it out and drop it off at the center. This will enable the staff to plan the total number of baked items to be delivered.

After School Programs
The Youth Center is taking registrations for their After School Programs. Children, ages 5 through

12 years, will be accepted. The center also provides one day camps, holiday camps and a winter camp. Drop-in services are available. Contact the center staff for more details.

OUTDOOR RECREATION
536-2881, Bldg. 1174

Join the Outdoor Recreation staff Nov. 20 for a day of deep sea fishing in Port Aransas. The cost is \$55 per person, which includes bus transportation, bait, reel and tackle.

The bus will depart Sidney's parking lot at 3 a.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. No fishing license is required on deep sea charters. There is a full concession on board where you can purchase hot and cold items, beverages and snacks. Call now to make your reservations.

SIDNEY'S
536-2077, Bldg. 714

— Sidney's Lounge is now open on Fridays from 4 p.m. to midnight.

— Friday Night Bingo is held every Friday starting at 5:00pm. Cards go on sale at 4:30 pm and are \$1.00 each. Stop by and try your luck.

— Sidney's has expanded its weekend hours. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, a continental breakfast will be served from 8 to 10 a.m., followed by lunch from

10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner will be served from 4 to 6 p.m.

— Make plans to enjoy Thanksgiving Day dinner at Sidneys on Thursday, Nov. 25th, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BASE LIBRARY
536-2534, Bldg. 705
Be Eager About Reading

Everyone is encouraged to participate in BEAR with the Base Library. From November through December the staff will collect new and almost new (lightly pawed) teddy bears that will be donated to the Child Protective Services Office of San Antonio. All bears collected will be delivered to the agency to be given to children under their guidance during the holidays.

BROOKS CLUB
536-3782, Bldg. 204

Family Night Buffets are held every Tuesday evening beginning at 4:30 p.m. The cost for club members is \$5.50 for adults, \$2 for children, ages 6-12 years. Children five years and younger eat free. Non-members will pay \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for children ages six to 12 years.

November Buffets:
Nov. 2 - Oriental Buffet
Nov. 9 - Italian Buffet
Nov. 16 - BBQ Buffet
Nov. 23 - Mexican Buffet

Brooks announces 'Wingman Stand Down Day'

Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, has designated Nov. 19 as Brooks "Wingman Stand Down Day."

The Wingman concept is the basic operating element in aerial combat. Wingmen provide one another protection and mutual support. An airman is defined as each active duty and Air Force civilian employee. Every airman has a wingman, and there should be no doubt about our responsibility to one another.

"Wingman Stand Down Day" will be a day-long event with activities and discussions focused on four areas: recognition and celebration of unit accomplishments, discussion of the stressors that come with success, re-emphasis of the support services available, and the importance of Airmen being good wingmen

in the tradition of those who came before us.

"We (Air Force) have lost more Airmen due to suicide and accidental deaths in the past year than from our combat losses in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001," Gen. Gregory Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, said in a recent message. "Battle damage checks tell us where our aircraft are vulnerable. Can we afford not to do the same for each other? This is personal so we need to engage at all levels... finding out what is happening with their wingman, and caring enough to get involved."

For more information on "Wingman Stand Down Day" call Lt. Col. Lee Torres, Organizational Health Center director, at 536-2202.



SPORTS

Brooks resurrects women's varsity basketball program

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The once dormant women's base basketball program was recently resurrected when several Brooks newcomers expressed an interest in reestablishing a varsity team. Now, the squad that is forming may become one of the most competitive, if not the most powerful hardcourt squads that its veteran coach has ever seen.

"They're excited about what they see and what they can become. That's a good thing," said Hosea Talbert, the Brooks women's varsity team head coach.

Mr. Talbert, former Brooks men's varsity head coach, has seen his share of championship women's teams. In fact, he has had his greatest coaching success guiding Air Force women's base teams to European titles.

From 1991-2001, Coach Talbert led the Mildenhall Air Base Marauders to five U.S. Air Force-Europe championships and four second place finishes. Since then, he came close only once to winning a championship when the Brooks men's varsity squad were Air Force Materiel Command runnersup in 2003.

"I much prefer coaching women, because they are more coachable than men. They prefer to play basic fundamental basketball," he said. Coach Talbert decided to form the team through the influence of several walk-on players.

"This year we've had more interest. The women who are on the team are knowledgeable and have experience playing the game. I think we can have a great program" he said. Their first practice was held Oct. 27.

There hasn't been a Brooks women's varsity squad since the 2002-2003 season when former Brooks men's varsity point guard Robert Garcia was head coach. That team did not compete in the AFMC tournament.

Coach Talbert plans to enter the new women's team in the Southwest Military Basketball League, the same organization that the Brooks men's varsity squad competes in. He is preparing them to play in an all-women's tournament at Fort Sam Houston Dec. 3-5.

He is still recruiting players. While military women have preference, team tryouts are also open to civilians, contractors and Brooks dependents.

Diablos seize Brooks hoops tournament title

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The San Antonio Diablos saved their best tricks for last on Halloween during a thrilling 96-86 overtime victory over Randolph Air Force Base to win the 2nd Annual L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic basketball tournament at Brooks.

The city-league team, tourney runners up last year, survived Randolph's dramatic comeback from a 20-point deficit in regulation play. The Ramblers sank three consecutive free throws to tie the game, 77-77, with 5.2 seconds left, sending the contest into overtime. However, the Diablos wore down Randolph in the final minutes of overtime to complete the three-day tourney undefeated.

"This was definitely more exciting than last year," said retired Lt. Col. Craston Artis, former Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman for whom the event is named. Last year, the undefeated Lackland AFB Warhawks blew away the Diablos 105-89 in the championship game.

The Brooks men's varsity squad finished third with a 2-2 record in the double elimination tourney that also featured Fort Sam Houston, the San Antonio Sun Devils and Lackland, Dyess and Laughlin AFBs.

After earning a forfeit win in the opening round because Goodfellow AFB did not show up, Brooks defeated its second opponent, Laughlin AFB, 84-62.

"We came out flat against Laughlin in the first half, but we picked up our defense," said Brooks head coach Damion Byrd. However, Brooks was unable to maintain its momentum in the second game against the Diablos, who dominated the inside game en route to an 84-62 win.

"They (Diablos) capitalized on our mistakes. Their size (also) hurt us," Coach Byrd said. He said the Diablos demonstrated true teamwork as they bedeviled every opponent with their superior athleticism, ball handling, defense and perimeter shooting.

Randolph AFB eliminated Brooks in the semifinals 88-49. "We have to work on teamwork and mental toughness. We still need to mature as a team," the Brooks coach said.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The San Antonio Diablos dribbled their way to a tournament win in the L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic at Brooks. The city-league team finished 3-0 at the tourney.

Nevertheless, he was encouraged by the play of two veterans. "Colby (Benjamin) gave the team a big lift," Coach Bryd said referring to his point guard.

He also praised 35-year-old power forward Rob Taylor who he characterized as "still the beast" on the court by having outplayed most of his younger opponents.

Key veterans rejoin Brooks men's varsity basketball team

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Two key veteran players from last year's Brooks men's varsity basketball team have rejoined the squad for the 2004-2005 campaign.

Perennial all-star power forward Rob Taylor came out of semi-retirement to assume a new role on the team, while seasoned point guard Colby Benjamin will play until January when he PCSes.

"I was hoping he'd come back. He was still practicing with the team, but hadn't publicly committed to returning," said Brooks head coach Damion Byrd, referring to Taylor, the Jackson, Tenn. native who is assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory. The coach said his 35-year-old star player decided to play another season after accepting a diminished role on the squad.

"The biggest thing that sold him was he didn't want to carry the bulk of the load on offense and defense," Coach Byrd said. He said his power forward's other top concern was reducing the wear and tear on his body by using him in a reserve role.

"He's my secret weapon off the bench. I try to use Rob at the 16-minute mark in both halves. He has finished the halves strong, and is fresher than the other teams' start-

ers," Coach Byrd explained. The veteran power forward has never been a bench player at Brooks, but is flourishing in the new role.

In an early season contest against Southwest Military Basketball League rival Lackland Air Force Base, Taylor demonstrated his value as an impact player.

"Rob's presence on the floor forced Lackland to play out of their zone. They double-teamed Rob without him having the ball. Rob scored only five points, but we won by 12," the Brooks coach said.

During an L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic game against Laughlin AFB, Taylor sent a message to his opponent with an emphatic slam dunk at the buzzer to complete a Brooks victory.

As for Benjamin, the Houston native who once scored 50 points in an intramural game for the 311th Security Forces Squadron, the veteran point guard's presence gives the Brooks team stability.

"His leadership and play on the floor greatly adds to our team," said Coach Byrd. "The selling point to Colby (on returning) was that we have a very good team this year."

Brooks plays its first regular season home games at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the fitness center gym against Goodfellow AFB. The two teams play Southwest Military Basketball League.

Brooks Junior Eagles tackling gridiron history

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Junior Eagles football squad is on the verge of making base history as they continue their quest to become the first undefeated youth team to win a state championship. However, they must first clinch the Texas Youth Football Association junior league crown on Saturday at noon against Stone Oak.

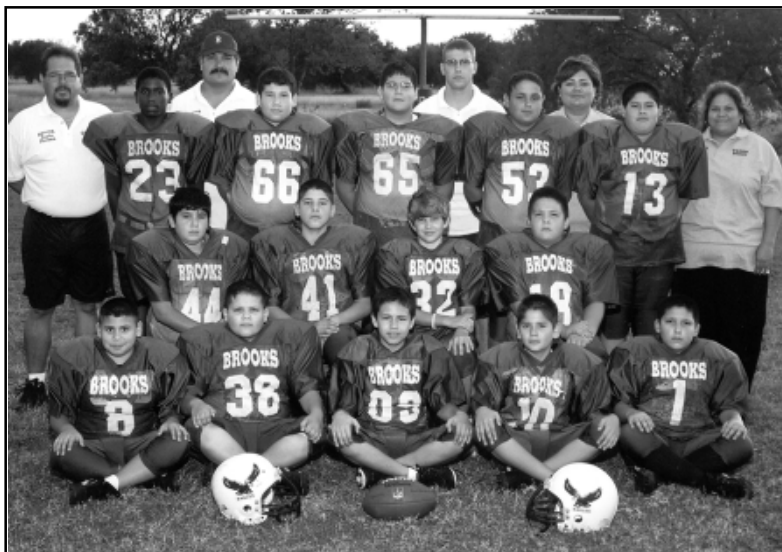
When they take the field at home this weekend at the Eagle's Nest, the club will try to improve upon their 8-0 record. The way they are playing now, observers say, no opponent has a chance to derail this juggernaut.

"Last Saturday they beat the North Central Falcons 64-0," said Larry Flores, Brooks Youth Sports director.

Mr. Flores is in awe of this mighty squad, the likes of which he has not seen since 1996 when another Brooks Junior Eagles gridiron team won the base's only state championship.

"That team was powerful, but they lost one game. We've never had an undefeated junior team," Mr. Flores said.

Led by head coach Albert Villarreal, this 14-member junior squad has completely dominated a 14-team league. They have already defeated their toughest ri-



Courtesy photo

At 8-0, this Brooks Junior Eagles team is seeking to become the first Brooks youth football squad to win a state championship while undefeated.

vals and are now preparing for the post-season tournament with a goal of being seeded number one. The top eight teams advance to the post-season for the state championship.

"They knock kids out of commission," said fitness center specialist Pablo Segura Jr., who is amazed by the size, strength and killer instincts of this Brooks team. Defensive lineman Blaine Elley has been responsible for unbelievable hits while using opponents as tackling dummies.

"He's a real headhunter," Mr. Flores said about the player.

The entire defensive line is intimidating the competition,

thanks to aggressive coaching by former defensive coordinator, 2nd Lt. Casey Walterschied, who is assigned to the 311th Human Systems Wing Contracting Office. Roland Gonzales ably took over as defensive coordinator when frequent TDYs prevented Lieutenant Walterschied from supporting the team, Mr. Flores said.


The Junior Eagles' high-octane offense is primarily fueled by two running backs: Devontaye McKense and Richard Garza. Together, they have scored more touchdowns than the season team total of many of their opponents.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The 2004-05 Brooks men's varsity basketball team features a blend of veteran impact players and energetic newcomers.





By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

University of Incarnate Word
The University of the Incarnate Word now has a representative, Ed Sakiewicz, visiting Brooks City-Base on Monday mornings. UIW offers tuition rates to Active Duty military that fit within the AF Tuition Assistance allowances. Several programs are available. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

Spouses to Teachers Program
The Department of Defense tasked DANTES to develop and manage a new pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers. The Spouses to Teachers Program has just been launched in six states with a large military population and a need for public school teachers.
These states are California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. Based on interest and activity, additional states may be added in the future. All eligible spouses who wish to become teachers in the pilot states may receive assistance from the Spouses to Teachers Program. This includes

spouses who have already earned a baccalaureate degree or higher, as well as spouses who are at the undergraduate level. Degreed spouses will be counseled on their options for achieving certification and information on potential funding sources and employment opportunities.
Non-degree holders will receive help in identifying degree completion programs, as well as information about possible financial assistance, both state and federal, and the potential for finding employment as teacher's aides or other positions in public schools. To take advantage of this pilot program in Texas, spouses may contact the Texas pilot office toll free at 1-800-815-5484.

DSST announces fee increase
The fee for civilians to take the Dantes Standardized Skills Tests has increased to \$60 effective Oct. 1. Payment must be made by money order or credit card. The fee for CLEP Testing on base for civilians attending on-base programs continues to be \$120. The fee for CLEP exams at local colleges and universities is \$75. To locate a school that offers testing visit the College Board website at www.collegeboard.org.

Upper Iowa on base and online
Register now for Upper Iowa University – Distance Learning. Courses are available in business and public administration. Online and correspondence courses are also available in other majors. The Upper Iowa Uni-

versity office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. For more information, visit the website at www.uiu.edu, stop by the Brooks office, Bldg. 558, or call 536-4033.

Montgomery GI Bill participants can increase benefits
Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 — from \$23,400 to \$28,800 — for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month. Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while the participant is on active duty. This is not a pay reduction; therefore, there is not a tax savings.
This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985 and elected to participate in the MGIB. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP convertees. For more information, call 536-3618.

Air Force Virtual Education Center
The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and CCAF. CCAF Students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. To access the AFVEC go to afvec.langley.af.mil and establish an account. For more information call 536-3617.

Discover Program online
The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information or to schedule an appoint-

ment to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.

CCAF graduation ceremony
The Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony will be held Nov. 5 at 2:30 p.m. at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. All members of the Brooks Community are invited to attend. Congratulations to the following Brooks City-Base employees who will graduate:

Master Sgt. John Bonness
Staff Sgt. Anthony Burleson
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Burnett
Tech. Sgt. John Castillo
Master Sgt. Ronald Craft Jr.
Staff Sgt. Hector de la Concha Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Darrian Fitzpatrick
Staff Sgt. Kara Furaus
Tech. Sgt. Michelle Getman
Staff Sgt. JeanPhillipe Guindon
Staff Sgt. Reginald Hardin
Staff Sgt. Joseph Harvey
Airman 1st Class Susan Hazzard
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hickey
Senior Airman Tasha Klotzman
Senior Airman Jesus Lopez Jr.
Senior Airman Moses Mendoza
Staff Sgt. Vontez Morrow
Staff Sgt. Kathleen Perez
Staff Sgt. Trisha Podsiadlo
Senior Airman Crystal Ray
Tech. Sgt. Annette Reed
Tech. Sgt. Curtis Reese
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Rigney
Staff Sgt. Christopher Roberson
Staff Sgt. Blanca Saavedra
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Strait
Tech. Sgt. Michael Timko
Master Sgt Emeric Velasco
Master Sgt Mark Wade
Senior Airman Sean Weins